

NEW YORK, N.Y., 1961

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PRESS

THE STATE OF ENGLISH—8

The Politics of Afghanistan
Richard S. Newell
An introduction for the general reader as well as the specialist which attempts to describe and explain the setting and process of political change in contemporary Afghanistan.
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of the literary men's diffidence, or by dint of their own determined protectionism. It could well be that the study of Old English has—rather like the interdisciplinary approach—a useful supportive role to play, but this role will only be properly defined and accepted once sacrifices have been made—sacrifices both of status and of staff. The present situation is little more than a patchwork of hypocrisies and prejudices, and is preserved, it seemed to me, mainly out of sloth and politeness. Too many people would have to be fired; this was even the most rabid anti-Anglo-Saxonist's shrugging dismissal of the prevailing anomalies. And in order to understand anything at all about English departments (or come to that, any university department) one has to learn this elementary truth: only gross moral turpitude can win a lecture in its ears.

Perhaps, as Raymond Williams was quoted as asserting in our piece about Cambridge, the trouble with English Studies is that it has just an old orthodoxy and is now in the process of searching for a new one. The general picture that has emerged from our series, though, has been more one of confusion and disarray, of nervous retreats and wild advances, than of any impressively purposeful exploration of future possibilities. At the moment, an inert defensiveness is no more to be upbraided than a gravel-log to the latest zeitgeist.

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Keep off the grass

ALISTAIR M. DUCKWORTH:
The Improvement of the Estate
238pp. Johns Hopkins Press, £4.30.

Few things illustrate the success of Jane Austen's novels better than Eliot's failure in *The Family Reunion*. Both artists choose unpromisingly limited material: Eliot force-feeds significance into his genteel country-house atmosphere and produces something even more comic than he intended—an episode of *Mrs. Dale's Diary* as performed by the out-patients of the Maudsley. Jane Austen, on the other hand, encourages a modest, unforced growth of significance, avoiding all portentousness.

It is surprising therefore, that Alistair Duckworth should attempt to locate Jane Austen in the history of ideas, to make her not so much the ironical observer of individual behaviour, as a social historian. He sees her as occupying a mid-point between the providential novels of the eighteenth century and the *conscious* novels of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This polarity is established in a brisk survey, conducted with all the tact and subtlety of a press-gang. Only Sterne escapes the choice of uniforms. Other novelists are less fortunate: *Tom Jones*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Jane Eyre*, *David Copperfield*, *Anna Karenina*, *War and Peace*, when described in this schematized way, resemble their originals as an identikit portrait resembles the human face. And, if Mr Duckworth is quick to anticipate the objection ("Such a brief and arbitrary [reviewer's italics] notice of the theme of individualism . . . undoubtedly begs many questions"), he is equally deft at sliding past it ("I have attempted to suggest ways in which a persistent novelistic [re-

viewer's italics] preoccupation with individualism over two centuries. . ."). The two quotations are from the same page.

However, Mr Duckworth improves somewhat when he considers Jane Austen. Though the satirist's art is, of necessity, largely negative, he contends strenuously for a more positive view. For him, Jane Austen is the literary counterpart of Burke, an intelligent conservative at a time when received Christian values were threatened by a destructive subjectivism. In the novels, the idea of the Estate functions as a metonym for the cultural heritage, to be defended against radical improvement, and only gradually changed.

In order to enforce this view, Mr Duckworth adopts a symbolic approach to the novels. It is a strange approach to an author who seldom used metaphor, and one which produces this kind of textual distortion:

While the Crawfords and the Bertrams rehearse, Fanny retires to her "nest of comfort" (152), there to pursue "useful" tasks which foster growth and respect the wisdom of the past. In contrast to all the movement of furniture that is taking place elsewhere, Fanny preserves the East room as always was: she "would not have changed its furniture for the handsomest in the house" (152). Her room becomes the still point in a moving house, a sanctuary. . . .

Fanny Price is, then, the beleaguered Tory holding out in the attic against the mob of innovators downstairs. Unfortunately, Mr Duckworth has achieved this effect by rewriting the book. Not only is it an absurd exaggeration to speak of the *disturbance* to two rooms as "a moving house", but in the version of *Mansfield Park* that the rest of the world reads, Fanny, during the rehearsals, spends her time in quite another

way. "There was no reading, no China, no connoisseur for Fanny," Fanny feels jealous and left out, even wishes at one point to take part. She listens to the various complaints of the actors, and derives a certain amount of pleasure from the general discontent. She tries to help Rushworth to learn his two and forty speeches. She helps Mrs Norris with the costumes and curtain. When she has a minute to spare from all this, she certainly does not pursue useful tasks: she reads and re-reads *Lovers' Lives*. "This is anything but the 'withdrawing' Mr Duckworth thinks it is.

This distortion is a direct result of the author's preoccupation with sociological generalities. And, elsewhere, historical ideas are applied to the novels as one might fit cutlery. If they manage to limp along Mr Duckworth seems satisfied. But, we cannot be happy with a book which describes Fanny's journey to Portsmouth as a "banishment", "in terms of the spatial journey of the novel". So much for Edmund's approval and Jane Austen's "Had Fanny been at all addicted to rupture, she must have had a strong attack of them". To be sure, Portsmouth is a disappointment, but it hardly deserves Mr Duckworth's description of it as "a Hobbesian state of involuntariness". And what are we to make of this account of Catherine Morland's ordinary, ordinary journey to Bath? Can it really represent "the heroine's effective disharmony"? Should we really find in the marriage of Wentworth and Anne Elliot an anticipation of the "existentialist response" of *Dover Beach* "to a world lacking value and consolation"? . . .

The same strictures apply to Mr Duckworth's reading of *Pride and Prejudice*. For him, its primary pur-

pose is to unify the large social structure in the marriage of Darcy and Elizabeth. Instead of two nobility, gone to trade, again, Mr Duckworth is happy to misread the text: he looks at a phrase describing Elizabeth looking at Darcy's portrait.

Noticeably, she does not so much look at him; she "fixed his eyes on herself". Now she tries to see him from Darcy's vantage point, and therefore appropriate that, soon when Darcy unexpectedly comes to see her in the grounds, she should realize "in what a disagreeable light (1252) she must now appear to him."

In fact, Elizabeth is not symbolically adopting a different perspective: she is indulging in wishful thinking, imagining Darcy's gentle look directed at herself.

Mr Duckworth's ingenious misreading about the symbolic value of the same way. For instance, he says that Sotherton, Rushworth's father, is "a man of a certain kind of fallacy". One only says that Mrs Norris, who hails of cream-cheese and pheasant eggs, would not agree. Again, such a plan considered by the house or even formulated. The statement that such a plan was supported by the Prime Minister and the then Foreign Secretary is totally false. It is not at any time considered by the Minister or any of his colleagues.

Mr Gordon Walker supported that. In a television broadcast he said that nothing in his book contradicted the Prime Minister's statement that in 1967 the Prime Minister and the then Foreign Secretary on British intervention in the Arab-

LEAKS

A leak at Number Ten

MR GORDON WALKER:
The Cabinet
Cape, £2.95. Fontana, Paperback, 40p.

Mr Gordon Walker's new introduction to his little dramatic discussion with a note explaining that the account is based in part on the three debates in Mr Harold Wilson's Cabinet in May 1967 (particularly the first one on May 23d) concerning proposals to attempt to forestall the threatened outbreak of war between Israel and Egypt after the latter had closed the straits of Tiran. . . .

Moreover, he reveals that he wrote his own part in the character of "Minister of Libraries" (at the time he was Secretary of State for Education and Science), who strongly opposed naval and military intervention. However fascinating all this competition in revelation of Cabinet secrets may be, and however valuable to students of contemporary politics, the time has clearly come when a decision must be taken about the rules to be observed in the game. Mr Wilson and Lord George-Brown, as well as Mr Gordon Walker, got quickly off the mark with their books when they left office, and Richard Crossman, Wedgwood Benn, and Barbara Castle have works in hand. Roy Jenkins, by now almost a professional historian and biographer, can scarcely be expected to leave his own story untold. What, then, of the thirty-year rule on Cabinet papers? Does it have any force, or is it a free-for-all? And what damage may not be done to international relations if the revelations come from the Cabinet room while the issues remain live and the protagonists are still on the scene?

These questions are directly connected with one of the most realistic (some would say cynical) passages in Mr Gordon Walker's thesis, where he deals with the collective responsibility of the Cabinet and Cabinet leaks. He draws a commonsense distinction between the disclosure of *faits divers* and the leak involving information

Mr Harold Wilson and his Foreign Secretary were once overruled by the Cabinet on a matter of great importance concerning a proposal to send naval ships to the Gulf of Akaba in an attempt to forestall the six-day war between Israel and Egypt. This is described by Mr Wilson as "one of our gravest discussions".

Mr Wilson's passage, on page 396 of *The Labour Government, 1964-1970*, reads:

The Cabinet met on Tuesday, 23rd May, the day after President Nasser's declaration about the Straits of Tiran. We had one of our gravest discussions. Though several ministers were committed friends of Israel and of Israeli leaders, we were all agreed to urge the utmost restraint, at a very difficult time, on her, while doing everything possible by direct diplomatic pressures and at UN to urge that similar pressures be put on the Arab countries by those in a position to influence them. . . .

After the Cabinet meeting we made it publicly clear that we could not compromise on the principle that the Gulf of Akaba and the Straits were international waterways, and that this must be asserted internationally. Israel, we said, rather than taking international action should seek UN assurances or, failing that, international assurances that the right of maritime passage remained inviolate.

We decided, and announced, that we would consult with leading maritime nations to make a declaration to this effect. The consultations began immediately.

Nor does that complete the record. One of the provocations to speculation in the first edition was Mr Gordon Walker's narrative of an "imaginary Cabinet meeting" on foreign affairs, in which he portrayed the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary running into resistance from Cabinet ministers over a proposal to use force after "the seizure of our uranium deposits and works by the Government of Lorenalia".

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This book consists of a "very brief chapter on the life of Lord Keynes, followed by a series of chapters on the development of the interwar economy—chiefly the British economy, but in an international context—and of the history of economic theory. This history is necessarily sketchy, and is marked by a most unfortunate tendency to assume that anybody whose views are now considered wrong or unfashionable was obviously stupid at the time that he wrote. . . . Nevertheless . . . Mr Stewart's account of Keynes and the controversies in which he was involved when *General Theory* was published is illuminating and well written." (*TLS*, December 28, 1967)

This second edition pays much greater attention to the international situation and to the whole problem of inflation, and is much less optimistic, perhaps, than the original about macro-economic policy. The book has been very much improved.

Chatto & Windus

THE most immediately evident result of the Second Vatican Council, and the clearest reflection of the profound changes that have come upon the Roman Catholic Church, is undoubtedly the reform of the liturgy. This means not merely the virtual universal substitution of vernacular versions for the Latin texts that had been so substantially maintained for many centuries as the mark of Catholic unity. There are, too, the radical changes in the structure of the liturgy itself, which, apart from a few regional rites such as those of Milan and Lyon and the special usages of such religious orders as the Carthusians and the Dominicans, had been virtually co-extensive with the Church in the West.

Much indeed of this inherited uniformity (reflected in Hilaire Belloc's notorious over-simplification, "Europe is the Faith") was a matter of liturgical intolerance and of the imperialist mood of Roman bureaucracy. Even Pope Pius V's reforms of the Roman Missal and Breviary four centuries ago were in effect but a tightening-up of the rite of Rome itself and its extension to territories that had long enjoyed local variants of that rite. Confronted by the liturgical changes that have been introduced since Vatican II, many traditionalists (whether living obedience to Rome or not) have loudly deplored the cultural impoverishment which they discern in the virtual abandonment of a Roman and Latin liturgy that had inspired not only the greatest architects and artists for more than a thousand years but, too, had conjugated the whole development of music in the West, from plain-song to Poulenc, Stravinsky and Lennox Berkeley.

The inherent vulgarity of so many hurriedly translated texts, and the virtually improvised music to fit them, has indeed devalued the traditional sense of the sacred. A swamp of liturgical experimentation must, at least for the present, be the inevitable price to pay for the swift changes for which there has been so

Liturgical experiments

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little preparation. The frenetic activity of the past few years, in providing texts for immediate use, can obviously be faulted on many grounds. But it would be absurd to judge the intimate significance of liturgical change in terms of current improvisation and the obsession with making the liturgy "relevant" (to use the modish word) to the demands of our time.

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, promulgated by Vatican II, laid down the general principles that should govern the reforms of the future. The liturgical movement of the nineteenth century, especially associated with the Benedictine monks of Solesmes, had been largely antiquarian in emphasis, concerned with establishing authentic musical texts. And even later developments in Belgium and Germany assumed that the Roman liturgy would remain essentially unaltered, and certainly in Latin. The Constitution does well to recall the fundamental meaning of the liturgy. In it "God speaks to his people and Christ is still proclaiming his Gospel". Hence the need to stress "devout and active participation by the faithful". The simplification of the rite, and the provision for the use of languages other than Latin (which still retains its traditional role as the mark of unity) must be seen in the light of a pastoral purpose, namely the coming together of the people of God in a consciously articulated act of worship and praise.

The Council itself could evidently lay down only general principles. The practical application of the liturgical reforms it proposed was to be carried out by a representative commission, which in its turn would

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LANCLOT SHEPPARD (Editor):

The New Liturgy
261pp. Darton, Longman and Todd. £3.

reflect the recommendations of national and regional Bishops' Conferences throughout the world. Thus the International Commission for English in the Liturgy has its offices in Washington, D.C., with an English-Canadian bishop as its current president, and has English, Scottish, Irish and other members representing countries where English is largely used for public worship. It can hardly be said that ICEL's labours have met with universal acclaim. Its initials of consultation are necessarily spasmodic, and American predominance in the organization is very evident. Certainly, the English translation of such venerable texts, with their inherently Latin rhythms and associations, presents formidable problems. Thus the rhetorical repetitions of such a passage from the Roman Canon as "Quam oblationem, in unctionibus, quatuordecim, hanc oblationem, adscriptam, ratam, rationabilem, acceptabilem, facere digneris" are virtually intranslatable, and "Bless and approve our offering: make it acceptable to you, an offering in spirit and in truth" is a time-rendering indeed. The dilemma is real, and are by no means resolved in the translations that have so far appeared. Translation demands a penetration into the sacred, as well as into the literal, significance of the texts. "Timeless English", which was once thought to be the aim of liturgical translators, is itself an arbitrary notion.

The work so far accomplished, then, is not necessarily experimental, and the aim of an "international English" may be illusory. Certainly, in some of the ICEL texts, especially those (separately published) for baptism and the funeral rites, betray a

The Liturgy of the Hours

The General Instruction with a Commentary by A. M. Rognet, O.P.
Translated by Peter Coughlan and Peter Pimble.
141pp. Geoffrey Chapman. £1.

ANTHONY PETTI and GEOFFREY

LAYCOCK (Compilers and Editors):
New Catholic Hymnal
374pp. Faber Music. £2.50.

transatlantic impatience with the retention of traditional rhythms and associations, and too often they solve a problem by evading it. But it is unreasonable to expect that a few years of feverish translation and adaptation can achieve an ideal version. There must be time for careful experiment, and, above all, time for a fruitful dialogue between the liturgists and the theologians. It still remains true that faith seeks understanding, and its expression must be sensitive to that intangible word and gesture with which the liturgy enshrines the truth that is to be proclaimed, and so expresses the new life that is to be lived.

The revised structures of the Roman liturgy are at every point designed to create greater simplicity and a more truly communal expression of prayer and the proclamation of the events that mark man's salvation. Thus the Roman Mass has been stripped of accretions that, over the centuries, dimmed its essential meaning. A far wider choice of scriptural readings, covering a three-year cycle: a radical simplification of the calendar, so that saints' feasts no longer destroy the continuity of the liturgical year; a variety of masses for special occasions and many new prefaces, and, in general, the provision for considerable options allow for celebrations that are appropriate to particular times and places. Above all, the approval of three additional Canons of the Mass (thought to be derived from "ancient sources") once more allows for wider choice. And the pastoral significance of liturgical celebration is everywhere stressed.

The definitive text of the new Breviary in English translation has yet to appear, but the provisional

The Prayer of the Church is a clear indication of what the pattern is like. The revision of the Breviary as a duty incumbent on clerics in major orders during the communal prayer of morning and evening offices, and the venerable survival from another age, is designed to make the Divine Office "not a burden, but a strength and religious, but a strength and nourishment". The end it has been drastically revised, so that the Psalter is read the course of a month instead of a week, and, in addition to the usual morning and evening offices, there is a new "Office of the Hours" which will allow for the use of the Bible and from the Fathers. The pattern of prayer is widened to include much more opportunities for prayer of the community. The present intention does not exclude these new which are integral to the course of the Breviary as a principal source of the sanctification of the community.

The General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours gives a clear account of the changes that have taken place in the Breviary and the pastoral reasons that inspired them. From being an arcane matter for members of religious orders, it has now become a simplified expression of the whole Catholic community's need to praise and glorify the Lord. A. M. Rognet's Commentary on the Instruction is a valuable guide to what has happened to the Catholic Church's public prayer. By rendering the Breviary accessible to all, by simplifying and reduction of its sheer bulk, it once more the complement of a eucharistic worship it enshrines.

The transformation of the Roman liturgy gives special importance to vernacular hymns. The new *Catholic Hymnal* is catholic in the best sense, drawing as it does from a wide variety of musical traditions and providing many new hymns as well as some excellent ones already arranged or composed for use. When, as a student, she married a husband, Charles, she saw in him the figure she also realizes that she is bound to feel because about the twelve years of their marriage they have lived in the presence of the mother to whom she is devoted. When he takes her with him to a legal case to Florence she can have an emotional response like sense, *ad interim*; valuable evidence of the organic process of change.

None of these books on the definitive text. They are, in the sense, *ad interim*; valuable evidence of the organic process of change.

man male and female, not black and white; and "sexual reproduction originates biologically in males and females are more than genes. The dominion entrusted to man includes not only reproduction but also the stewardship of the earth and what that can mean in the New Man. "Recreation" is an attempt to outlaw Pentecost.

The racial question can be seen in the book than that. It is a book that involves a fully fledged house with a sinister, a dishwasher programme, a "lawson" which captures, condemns and executes a cybernetic poodle to a fatal sense of humour. To add to the deadly coarser goods, a few human beings about the usually coming of second order, the probability is that the reader will be there way ahead of him and his stainless steel juggernauts. When the juggernaut turns on his hapless driver, when the cybernetic poodle poisons its mistress's lover, when a bunch of office workers are wiped out by vacuum in the hands of an amateur, it can hardly come as a shock to readers who have been pencilled in the ending before getting halfway through the story.

GOULART: *How to Become a Screenwriter*
191pp. Cape. £1.60.
Siddick and Jackson. £1.75.

Mr Goulart's SF world, the one he has taken over. There are here which involve a fully fledged house with a sinister, a dishwasher programme, a "lawson" which captures, condemns and executes a cybernetic poodle to a fatal sense of humour. To add to the deadly coarser goods, a few human beings about the usually coming of second order, the probability is that the reader will be there way ahead of him and his stainless steel juggernauts. When the juggernaut turns on his hapless driver, when the cybernetic poodle poisons its mistress's lover, when a bunch of office workers are wiped out by vacuum in the hands of an amateur, it can hardly come as a shock to readers who have been pencilled in the ending before getting halfway through the story.

Red and yellow

BYKOV: *The Order*
254pp. Faber and Faber. £2.75.

Two Soviet partisans, Solnikov and Rybak, leave the cover of the forest looking for food. Solnikov, already ill, gets wounded in a skirmish and both are captured by the collaborating militia—the *polizei*. Solnikov is executed, but Rybak decides to cooperate temporarily to buy time for a future in which he believes all accounts will be settled. *The Order* is what in Russian is called a *novel*—a character study in a limited context, not a full-scale novel. For much of the story the reader's sympathy is centred on Rybak, as he struggles unsuccessfully to overcome the burden of a sick and wounded companion on an already difficult mission. Then, gradually, Rybak's intrinsic shortcomings—symbolized by the childhood episode in which he jumps clear of a cart that falls over a precipice instead of trying to save the other occupants—begin to be revealed, and Solnikov's character emerges as the stronger of the two.

Bykov maintains the drama throughout by switching the point of view between Solnikov and Rybak at crucial moments, while the action is extended by the occasional use of dream and flashback. The elaborate Russian version, from Bykov's original Byeloussion, is translated carefully, if a little unimaginatively, in this English edition.

Who's afreud?

REBE de SAINT PHALLE: *Portrait of Gilles Cremonesi*
218pp. Cassell. £1.90.

Rebe de Saint Phalle, who is well by her translator, is both precise and precise in her portrayal of a psychoanalyst. "You are supposed to be about as unsympathetic (in the sense of the word) a chap as

could be imagined. "If doctors of the mind advise of humble mortals where do we turn?" All the time Pauline is faced with this contrast between her confident outer image and her doubting inner self. The best chapters of the book are set in the country when Pauline goes on a visit to the family of one of her young patients. "There the scents and sights of the summer fields and the daily round of the young mother of the family are seen by Pauline as a contrast in her own seemingly arid life of the intellect. What can she reply when people say on discovering that she has no children: 'Of course, you have your career. One does have to choose'?"

Sometimes the constant references to psychoanalytical theory become ingenious. Could Pauline be so naive as to think that the children of her fertile hostess would seek for the rest of their lives in all their subsequent relationships to recreate their mother? But on the whole, like Pauline, we can appreciate the symbols for what they are, even the sunflower of the title. Pauline is basically tough enough to win through, but it is daunting that to know yourself is not after all the answer.

Surprise, surprise

GOULART: *How to Become a Screenwriter*
191pp. Cape. £1.60.
Siddick and Jackson. £1.75.

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The detective's decline

JULIAN SYMONS: *Bloody Murder*
254pp. Faber and Faber. £2.75.

As Julian Symonds points out, a noticeable few of our literary weeklies ignore the crime novel altogether. Yet the readers of these journals probably read more of those crime novels that are favourably assessed in *Bloody Murder* than the "serious" novels which receive earnest and lengthy attention from reviewers. Not that new crime novels require either earnestness or length. All prospective readers need is a sufficient indication of appearance and quality, and at proper intervals, such a critical summation as this one, fourteen years after A. E. Murch's *The Development of the Detective Novel*, thirty-one years after Howard Haycraft's *Answer for Pleasure*.

In the last gap much has happened. The detective novel, strictly defined, has almost disappeared. The crime novel, the police novel, the spy story have found new strength, and Mr Symonds covers the whole field. The historical review, at least up to Conan Doyle, could perhaps be omitted from the next book on the subject. We know now about Inspector Bucket and Sergeant Cuff, about Dupin and Vidocq—and yet perhaps the next writer may bring something new to this hackneyed résumé, as Mr Symonds has done. How many of us knew that the entry to the rue Morgue was impossible as Poe described it, or that our popular belief that his solution of the "Murder of Roger" mystery was later justified rests only on his say-so and is simply untrue?

Mr Symonds' contribution to the question of why we enjoy these stories will appeal only to those who can be revived by unscientific theorizing. It is better to pass on to the core of his book, his excellent analysis of the Golden Age of the 1920s and earlier 1930s, when intricately planned,

socially reactionary, emotionally null detection held the field. Sexual feeling was not the only aspect of life ignored in these stories. In the British stories the General Strike of 1926 never took place, trades unions did not exist, and when sympathy was expressed for the poor it was not for the unemployed but for those struggling along on a fixed inherited income. In the American stories there were no broad lines and no radical.

And nowhere any Chinamen. It is surprising that Mr Symonds is non-plussed by this maxim of Ronald Knox's, which surely referred to previous mixture of Linchman Chinamen with trappings to the river for corpse disposal.

Of the Golden Age, the most important writer was Dorothy Sayers, and Mr Symonds finds it, as he says, difficult to write fairly of her. Murch was kinder to Sayers's better work, though neither of these critics refers to her *Five Red Herrings* where the alibi construction and breakdown are classic. But there can be no two views about her failure when trying to diversify into feeling, a failure nicely symbolized, in *Busman's Honeymoon*, by Harriet rising to knot her tie the morning after the nuptial flight. And to Mr Symonds's just assessment of Sayers's failures in the very specializations on which she prided herself may be added the addendum note published with that book that, re Chateau Léoville, for "burgundy" we should read "claret". For all Sayers's originally high and influential talent, it was not through her classy spinnings (*Flora Somerville*) that feeling transmuted detection but rather, in a manner not at first recognizable as such a change, through the socially judgmental crime stories of Hammett and later Chandler.

With these new influences, with the greater elbow-room of such writers as Allingham and Marsh, Innes and then Crispin in their best days, with injections of realism from Greene and Ambler, with such originals as Bingham and Symonds himself, the

crime story has almost burst the bounds of classification, and Mr Symonds is much to be admired for the near-adequacy with which he has categorized it. His fifteenth chapter, especially interesting and useful, comprising a critical list of lower-grade popular writers such as Charlton, Cressy, Gardner, and another of "curiosities and singletons"—and here is where every reader will want to make his own addenda. What of Robert Robinson's single and literary detection, *Landscape with Dead Dons*? What of Ian Jeffries's three thrillers with their over-intelligent, insensitive young scientist hero? What of—but here we come to too many recent omissions and the conclusion that this book has, probably, taken rather a long time from pen to print.

How else, with so few omissions, explain the absence of Peter Dickinson, whose later books have almost justified the unanimous acclaim of his *Skü Deep*? Of Owendoline Butler, with selizophrenia in Oxford, annihilation in South London? Of Celia Fremlin with her extraordinary suburban grues? But in the later years women writers seem under-represented, and no mention at all, among the more popular books, of the entire genre of the romance-thriller, whereby women's romantic reading climbed a rung on the literary ladder.

Where now? Mr Symonds asks, and his forecast is for a further decline of classical detection, decline of the European spy story with more set in such areas as the Far East (but this has already happened; what about excellent Gavin Black?), more adventure novels, police novels, crime. We shall see. The general field has shown, over the past century-and-three-quarters, such constantly revitalizing strength that almost anything could happen. What seems certain is that in some or other form the genre will continue; and that at this hinge moment Mr Symonds has written a good, necessary, critical history of it.

Crime in short

GERARD BELL: *Villains of Color*
218pp. Cassell. £1.90.

Gerard Bell has nearly succeeded in that nearly impossible genre, the comic thriller. What's needed is a strong plot, the utmost ingenuity in incident, characters not too far-fetched for human interest, and wit. Mr Bell has all of these, and we offer a sample of the last: "The traffic sped by. One or two drivers had slowed. Then, satisfied that what seemed like three men trying to murder a fourth was actually three men trying to murder a fourth, they drove on." The venue is mostly Northumbria, both heroes, the proto-Bond and the proto-Kippes, are charming, and the sexual talent is in just the right place.

JOHN BLACKBURN: *For Fear of Little Men*
191pp. Cape. £1.60.

Odd, that John Blackburn apparently doesn't know the source of his title, or his latest horror would surely have been set in Ireland, and different. Still, Wales it is, where an ancient legend survives of a surviving ancient people, sleek and dangerous. And they do and so they are, and if thwarted in present ravages by old General Kirk and his colleagues, there's a second coming to come.

DOMINIC DEVINE: *Three Green Bottles*
224pp. Collins. £1.50.

Something of a policecat in an Epsom seaside town; the violent deaths of too many young schoolgirls, and a rather drifty young man as well. There's a clear conception of a partnership of doctors, most of them with personality problems of their own, and one with a couple of mixed-up daughters, one also one dreadful. The background is convincing, and even if we manage to

notice the killer, we are unlikely to notice the vital link between the killed.

PETER DICKINSON: *The Lizard in the Cup*
188pp. Hodder and Stoughton. £1.60.

There's an awkward start to this little story of Pibble, ex-CID, now in the outcottage of millionaire Thanatos on a Greek island. But once the story gets going, it's very nearly up to Dickinson's usual high standard, with the resolution of various conflicts of loyalty (and not least the one on the last page) at least as gripping as the uncertain mysteries of the religious, the art and the high.

BRIDGET EVERITT: *A Cold Front*
172pp. Peter Davies. £2.

Here is a very promising first thriller writer. In story-telling and travel-romance there's Venice and Cyprus—Miss Everitt recalls Mary Stewart; but she is, to her advantage, colder. The initial mystery is temptingly presented; why do people half-recognize Philippa, why is she so apprehensive, so curiously bored? But it isn't quite clear why ball was needed for the delinquent.

ERLE STANLEY GARDNER: *The Case of the Beautiful Beggar*
253pp. Heinemann. £1.75.

What a lot of books hitlerio into published in this country the late Gardner left behind him! Here is, yet another, a good one as they go, even if all the way through, and the reader never quite catching up with Perry Mason.

HELEN MACINNES: *Message from Málaga*
349pp. Collins. £1.80.

Notoriously the immigrants become more vociferously patriotic than natives. But one vehicle that won't

take crude propaganda is the thriller, and Helen MacInnes's last few, like this one, have been marred almost to unredeemability by the fact that she seems now less concerned to tell a good story than to make an apologia for the United States, assailed by external enemies, riddled from within. This one is set in Spain—which was, of course, once riddled with anarchism.

ROBERT MACLEOD: *A Killing in Malta*

183pp. John Long. £1.25.

Simple thrills in Malta when Jonathan Gaunt guards a famous sword during a Scottish Trade week. Easily readable, easily forgettable.

JOYCE PORTER: *A Murderer and her Murder*

191pp. Weidenfeld and Nicolson. £1.60.

Joyce Porter's beauty books about incompetent detection are always fun, but her hideous bunch amateur, the Hon. Con, is better read about for comedy than detective interest. The master Inspector Dover at least brought a professionally minded sergeant to the scene.

RAFE QUILTY: *The Tenth Season*

187pp. Cape. £1.60.

For quite some time the supernatural or ineptible in thrillers has been rare, with John Blackburn almost its only competent exponent. Now comes Rafe Quilty with a first thriller of most acceptable genre, in which long-ago experiments in ESP added tangibly for a sensitive, as for her twin sister who, released by death, now seeks or acts as a detective. If the ending is pretty misty, Mr Quilty's treatment of the more ordinary characters is firm and good.

BOOKS AND PRINTS

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The Word here and now

JOHN D. DAVIES: *Beginning Now*
285pp. Collins. £2.50.

John Davies describes his book as an experiment in what he calls situational theology. If the Bible is to speak to our condition, then straight exegesis can never be enough. We want to know not only what it meant to those who first heard it or wrote it down, but what the Word is saying to us here and now. The question is not, Did this happen? but, Is this happening? The title means that "the study begins with me, with my situation, my awareness, my blindness". Mr Davies has done something extremely difficult, and on the whole with remarkable success. He has digested shelves full of scholarship as well as very wide general reading. He knows all about the Babylonian myths and the documentary origins of the Pentateuch. But all this is made to serve the dominant aim of contemporary biblical exposition.

The modern reader inevitably supposes that the chapters which come first in the AV were therefore the earliest in composition—primitive, pre-scientific and all that. In fact, as we know, they are late and highly reflective. What matters is not their dependence on ancient mythologies, but the way in which these have been

radically transformed. The God who created the heaven and the earth is the God made known in the Exodus and the covenant and more fully revealed through the prophets, and this God is read back into the old stories: "You could have a creator-god quite unlike the God of Genesis I-III." Mr Davies suggests that under the searing experience of Exile and the tragic, demonic forces in history, the author of Genesis asserts that before and beneath all things is eternal, self-communicating Godhead, apart from whom nothing can exist and that this is the meaning and purpose of the world. "Behold it was very good." What a faith!

For the Christian reader what God means in the story is the God made known through Jesus Christ. Similarly, for us the image of God in man must be understood in terms of the "second Adam", whom alone Christians can accept as representative image of the true God. How far, we may ask, can this approach be justified? It is, of course, that of the first believers, who searched the Old Testament for proof texts. But it is an extremely dangerous road, or it may lead to fatally false conclusions. (What about the tribal wars of extermination, which are said to have been commanded by God? Yet God is one, and for us there can be no other than the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And

in any case, if we read as Christians, we cannot read as though we were anything else.

What Mr Davies gives, then, is a Christian exposition of the stories about the Creation and the Fall in the manner of Augustine and Bonhoeffer, rather than that of Wellhausen or the commentaries. And it is a contextualized exposition. For Mr Davies, who was for some years chaplain in the Wiltonshire University, the contextual situation is "South Africa": a uniquely instructive theological laboratory.

For him, creation involves both an ordered universe and a history which, under God, is always in process of creative change. Ideologies which attempt to provide security simply in terms of origins or the past—ancestral, national or racial groupings—are, says Mr Davies, equivalent to the nature-worship against which the stories are an inspired protest. "Substitutes for faith in the Living God who is our destiny." He describes a letter to the Johannesburg Star which argued, by an unrefuted list of "P" ("P") with its take and needs vigilant discrimination, or it may lead to fatally false conclusions. (What about the tribal wars of extermination, which are said to have been commanded by God? Yet God is one, and for us there can be no other than the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. And

man male and female, not black and white; and "sexual reproduction originates biologically in males and females are more than genes. The dominion entrusted to man includes not only reproduction but also the stewardship of the earth and what that can mean in the New Man. "Recreation" is an attempt to outlaw Pentecost.

The racial question can be seen in the book than that. It is a book that involves a fully fledged house with a sinister, a dishwasher programme, a "lawson" which captures, condemns and executes a cybernetic poodle to a fatal sense of humour. To add to the deadly coarser goods, a few human beings about the usually coming of second order, the probability is that the reader will be there way ahead of him and his stainless steel juggernauts. When the juggernaut turns on his hapless driver, when the cybernetic poodle poisons its mistress's lover, when a bunch of office workers are wiped out by vacuum in the hands of an amateur, it can hardly come as a shock to readers who have been pencilled in the ending before getting halfway through the story.

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Hammering the heretics

VICTOR E. NEUBURG (Editor):
Literary and Society
117pp and 93pp. Woburn Press, £4.

This book consists of facsimile reprints of two short books, *The Rise and Disavowal of the Infidel Societies* by William Hamilton Reid, 1800, and *James Watson, A Memoir* by W. I. Linton, 1879. Both of these have a limited interest for scholars. The former was written by a moderate reformist journalist who made his debut as a contributor to *The Rediff*, that champagne satire against Pitt & Co from which the fizz has long departed, and who beguiled half a century writing hooks tailored to publishers' commissions. His *Infidel Societies* followed on the publication of those arch-conspiratorial exposures of Freemasonry by Robison and Barruel. Its interest resides generally in its portrayal of the suspicious which beset the Tories and patriotic Whigs during the Napoleonic Wars and particularly in its description of religious, or anti-religious, sects, such as Wesleyans or Muggletonians, who were opposed to the Church-by-Law established in the three years before the turn of the century. It was originally published by John Halehard of 173 Piccadilly, whose speciality was the defence of the Church of England and its betterment of the poor.

A work so ephemeral in its intentions and so particular in its references could not be made significant

without extensive notes. One object of attack, the London Corresponding Society, went through phases which varied according to the influence of events and individuals. The Robin Hood Clubs are less well recorded, but there are no notes from Victor E. Neuburg, who is styled as "the Editor". As an "introduction" he is equally insubstantial. To weld two works so dissimilar in period and intention into a whole, supposing it were possible, would have needed more than the two-and-three-quarter pages he gives us. As it is, he gives us an introduction far more inaccurate and contentious than either of the polemical pieces which he has reprinted. He states, for example, "that by the turn of the century the artisan could be reading a cheap edition of Thomas Paine's *The Rights of Man*". In fact, *The Rights of Man* was a banned book, and in December, 1792, Thomas Spence was jailed for selling it. The threat to Government and the Church, as established by Law, came less from the spread of ideas hostile to established authority, temporal and spiritual. This emerges plainly from Reid's *Infidel Societies*, which having begun by attacking various forms of heterodoxy, atheist, deist, Muggletonian and Methodist, ends by denouncing democratic rule as a heresy against the aristocratic principle.

With hindsight, we are able to distinguish between revolution and reform. But Reid, a puritan of Burdett, writing in a London crowded with refugees from the Terror at a time when powerful Whig families were open partisans of Napoleon, had some cause for alarm. The London Corresponding Society was not composed merely of moderates like Lord Cochrane and Major Cartwright, but also of extremists like Spence, whose disciples were later to be conned by Sidmouth's agents *prorogateurs* into the abortive Spa Field riot and the ridiculous Cato Street conspiracy. Reid's pamphlet has an interest as it stands, especially in its allusions to the blacking to which "progressive" groups are prone. With notes, it would have been of even more value.

But Reid's *Memoirs of John Hume* (1812) would have made a better companion to W. I. Linton's tribute to his friend James Watson (1879), written at the behest of Watson's widow to inform and inspire comrades contemporary and future.

Literary lots

American Book-Prices Current

Volume 74: 1968

Edited by Edith P. Hazen, George Milne and Peter H. Hemmingson.

1,259pp. New York: Columbia University Press. \$40.

The latest volume of *ABPC* records, in a few more pages than its predecessor (noted in the *TLS* on June 18, 1971), a couple of hundred more entries, including 25,580, it covers the traditional ground: plus one sale by Mario E. Newman of Los Angeles, one by Phillips, Son, & Neale of London and one by Montreal Book Auctions. The preface records the fact that Hodgsons were during the season under review already affiliated with Sotheby, but they have sensibly retained the familiar code designation "H" in the entries. The bottom limit for listing remains at \$10 or £3, which has perhaps become unrealistic to today's (or even yesterday's) market.

Despite both P. Hazen's devoted efforts to bring the volume of *ABPC* more nearly up to date than they have been since the Columbia University Press took it over from Edward Lazare, Volume 74 cannot

help having a salted flavour of past history about it; much has happened to the rare book market since August, 1968. But it includes records of Parts III and IV (of VII) of the Streeter Library, Part IV of Major Abbey's, two sales in the *Bibliotheca Philippi* series, and the sale in December, 1967, of what Mrs Hazen tactfully describes as "an almost complete collection of the literary properties touched on by Thomas J. Wise (particularly Sir Maurice Parker's collection)". It will be welcome on the shelf, as containing, which *Book Auction Records* does not, manuscripts and autograph letters, including for example the splendid copy of Pindarus's *Shokhama*, written and signed by Jahangir in the mid-eighteenth century, which brought, at Christie's, the season's highest price, £50,000.

Since this volume was published in New York it has been announced that Mrs Hazen has relinquished the editorship of *ABPC*. She has been succeeded by Paul Jordan Smith, formerly in the book department at Sotheby's. Parker-Barnes' Galleries, who will have (and will need) the good wishes of all users in the fulfilment of his expressed hope to get Volume 75 out this spring.

The Burney brood

JOYCE HEMLOW with JEANNE M. BURGESS and ALTHEA DOUGLAS:
A Catalogue of the Burney Family Correspondence 1749-1878
458pp. McGill-Queens University Press. (AUPP). £9.50.

If Fanny Burney's late-eighteenth-century reputation as a novelist had faded by the time of her death in 1840, the posthumous publication within a few years of her voluminous *Diary and Letters* revealed her as one of the most gifted and entertaining of the informal observers of her age. During the next 100 years there were frequent editions of the *Diary and Letters*, as well as biographies of Fanny and of other members of the Burney family. Yet it was only after the last war, as the family papers passed into public or important private collections, that it became clear just how much unpublished material relating to the Burneys had survived. Miss Joyce Hemlow's *History of Fanny Burney* (1958) first indicated the scope and importance of these new sources, which were further explored in 1965 in Roger Lonsdale's biography of Fanny's father, the historian of music and friend of Johnson.

Miss Hemlow's introduction to this elaborate and lavishly produced *Catalogue* traces the descent of the main divisions of the family papers to their present resting-places in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library, the Osborn Collection at Yale and the British Museum. What her account modestly omits is the part played for more than twenty years by her own enthusiasm and energy in the cataloguing of these large and complex collections and in the organization of the Burney Room at McGill University, which has produced the present *Catalogue* and will shortly issue a definitive edition of Fanny's letters. It is an amazing all of the 10,000 letters listed in this volume are in these three major collections and some idea of the thoroughness of Miss Hemlow and her colleagues can be gathered from the fact that in the pursuit of Burney material, they sent inquiries in 1964-65 to some 2,500 British and American libraries, with the result that now letters to and from members of the family turned up in more than a hundred collections.

About half of the *Catalogue* is devoted to listing the dates and contents of the letters, which are arranged in chronological order. The other half is devoted to the letters themselves, which are arranged in alphabetical order. The letters are arranged in alphabetical order of the names of the Burneys, and within each name in chronological order. The letters are arranged in alphabetical order of the names of the Burneys, and within each name in chronological order. The letters are arranged in alphabetical order of the names of the Burneys, and within each name in chronological order.

Information, please

Richard Aldington, 1892-1962: any information, for a thesis.

Mr Lesley Barnes, 15 Oakleigh Drive, Seelby, Dudley, Worcestershire.

Helen Biggar-Moulton, 1949-1953, sculptor and stage designer: whereabouts of sculpture, for a critical biography.

Anna E. Shepherd, 99 Marney Road, London SW11.

Maud Bodkin, 1875-1967: information on life or writings, for a study.

Syracuse University, NY 13212, USA. Dr Valentine Chiriac, journalist: any manuscripts and private papers.

Werner Frey, 10 Rösliweg, 8006 Zurich, Switzerland.

T. W. H. Craswell, 1858-1924, poet, author and journalist: any personal details.

H. V. Morton, c/o Methuen, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4.

Alfred William Forman, 1840-1925, translator of Wagner: any information, especially on his mercantile career.

John Collins, Book Department, Sotheby and Co., 34 New Bond Street, London W1.

Angus John: information on works in private hands, for a collaborative study.

Malcolm Easton, The University, Hull, Yorkshire.

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workplace industrial relations in a limited sector of British industry. Probably the only comparable work—though in some respects more extensive, and with official backing—was the survey made under the guidance of W. J. McCarthy for the Donovan Royal Commission. Mr Marsh's volume provides a bird's-eye view of industrial relations in engineering and points to the areas needing improvement. It also provides a body of information against which the possible effect of the various provisions of the Industrial Relations Act can be assessed. If one of the Act's main purposes is to deal with strikes, it is significant that, according to this survey, 87.5 per cent of the managements of engineering establishments do not regard stoppages as a serious problem. The statistics show also marked regional variations; the incidence of stoppages in Scotland, for example, is five times as high as in the highest regions in England—the Midlands, and the West.

Approximately nine out of ten engineering managers thought that shop stewards were helpful; very different from the popular image of the awkward steward more concerned to instigate than to resolve conflict. The great majority of managers also prefer dealing with shop stewards than with full-time trade union officials. This is consistent with the survey's general impression: in the majority of engineering factories industrial relations do not give rise to persistently serious problems. The survey covered 432 establishments employing nearly 560,000 workers, both manual and white-collar. The level of trade-union organization was somewhat higher than previous estimates had suggested. Of those establishments which replied to the question about membership, about 77 per cent of their manual labour force were trade-union members. The largest single union was, of course, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers. There were almost 9,000 shop stewards, averaging one for about every thirty-two members.

The number of unions in each establishment was surprisingly low. Establishments of up to 500 employees might expect to have an average of three manual workers' unions; those of between 500 and 1,000 employees, just over five. In other words, although there are in the engineering industry about thirty separate unions, it is not normal for more than a handful to have members in any one factory. Another point of interest is that something like 10 per cent of the establishments had full-time conveners or

senior stewards. In all there were sixty-nine stewards working full-time on union business; probably a higher proportion than had hitherto been assumed. Mr Marsh and his colleagues were not impressed by the standard of management. Their overall impression is "of a continuing amateurism supplemented by growing professional assistance". A considerable number of large establishments had no one full-time in charge of personnel; in most industrial relations were conducted by line management. In federated engineering firms the existence of comprehensive written agreements with unions is the exception rather than the rule. Negotiating procedure is not formalized. Mr Marsh, nevertheless, did not find that the formal industry-wide system of making collective agreements in engineering was in conflict with the informal bargaining system at factory level. Such a diagnosis was at variance with the facts in that it had never been the object in engineering to dominate the factory by means of industry-wide agreements.

The majority of managements support the view of the Engineering Employers' Federation that there is greater scope for law in industrial relations, some 70 per cent saying that procedure agreements ought to have the force of law. On the other

The view from the factory floor

J. MARSH, E. O. EVANS and P. GARCIA:
Workplace Industrial Relations in Engineering
23pp. Kogan Page (Associates), £4.
Paperback, £1.50.

most engineering factories strikes occur very rarely; indeed, in roughly one out of five there are hardly any strikes at all. This is one of the significant facts revealed in a survey conducted by the Engineering Employers' Federation, in cooperation with the research staff of St John's Hall, Oxford, under Arthur Marsh. The survey revealed also that a small number of factories were highly strike-prone. Thus, under 1 per cent of the establishments surveyed had more than 40 per cent of stoppages and 5 per cent had 65 per cent. Three exceptionally strike-prone establishments accounted for less than 41 per cent. Stoppages of half an hour or more were recorded in this rigorous survey; many of them would not qualify for inclusion in the official Employment Statistics. Mr Marsh and his colleagues have more than 80 per cent of the letters which they regard themselves as strike-

workplace industrial relations in a limited sector of British industry. Probably the only comparable work—though in some respects more extensive, and with official backing—was the survey made under the guidance of W. J. McCarthy for the Donovan Royal Commission. Mr Marsh's volume provides a bird's-eye view of industrial relations in engineering and points to the areas needing improvement. It also provides a body of information against which the possible effect of the various provisions of the Industrial Relations Act can be assessed. If one of the Act's main purposes is to deal with strikes, it is significant that, according to this survey, 87.5 per cent of the managements of engineering establishments do not regard stoppages as a serious problem. The statistics show also marked regional variations; the incidence of stoppages in Scotland, for example, is five times as high as in the highest regions in England—the Midlands, and the West.

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Books received

Biography and Memoirs

David, Des. *World Wanderer*. 72pp. Angus and Robertson, £2.25.

From Sydney to the West Indies and from Hawaii to San Francisco a whole interests touch the book. Mr Marsh and his colleagues have more than 80 per cent of the letters which they regard themselves as strike-

The *Catalogue* has one serious and regrettable limitation: reasons which are not explained by the letters they have known to exist in manuscript; result, there are no entries, for example, for Fanny's letters to the Marquis of Lansdowne. Mr Marsh and his colleagues have more than 80 per cent of the letters which they regard themselves as strike-

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History

The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis. Volume III. Books V and VI. Edited and Translated by Marjorie Chibnall. 408pp. Clarendon Press: Oxford University Press. £10.

This is the second volume to be published of the six-volume edition of Orderic's *History*. It comprises books five and six of his *History*. The reasons for this arrangement were explained in a review of Volume I (*TLS*, July 9, 1970), where the work was characterized as "long awaited... warmly welcomed... and of the greatest value to historians". The present volume is concerned chiefly with the history of the abbey of St. Evroul, Orderic's monastic home; it contains an interesting account of the foundation of Shrewsbury Abbey by the historian's father, the Norman Odolus, who himself became a monk there. The introduction and notes are of the high quality to be expected of the editor.

PERWICK, HUBERT. *The ... Alliance*. 152pp. Kington, Warwickshire: The Roundwood Press. £3.25.

Politically and militarily, the Auld Alliance ended in the sixteenth century with the Treaty of Edinburgh, but that is only the halfway point in the story of the special relationship between Scotland and France which Hubert Perwick traces from its legendary origins to Charlemagne's support for a Caledonian chieftain, Aochalus, against the Saxons. In the sphere of culture and intellect the link between the two peoples looms out of the military alliance, with a notable revival to the period before the First World War; and the intellectual of the thought, the art and architecture, and the social life of

both nations are carefully worked out. The book begins and ends on a note of hope for the renewal of the Auld Alliance inside the broader framework of the European Community.

Miscellany One. 284pp. Edinburgh: Sair Society. £2.35.

The vicissitudes of the Scottish public records during the Commonwealth and Protectorate are described by David Stevenson in a paper which leaves the reader, like the author himself, surprised that so many of these have survived. Continued by the English after the battle of Dunbar, released, and then recaptured and removed to London, the records were returned piecemeal to Scotland, but not without further misfortunes when a ship containing its quantity of them went down at sea. Dr Stevenson's paper is one of eight in a miscellany which, as Lord Clyde notes in an introduction, ranges over Scottish legal history from the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century; the latter being represented by Professor Benoit Miller's lively account of the Paisley Union bank robbery in 1811.

Literature and Criticism

Dante: *The Selected Works*. Edited by Paolo Milano. 662pp. Chatto and Windus. £2.10.

This volume was originally published in 1947 by the Viking Press as *The Portable Dante*. It contains the whole of the *Commedia* in Laurence Bin-yon's translation (with a number of notes by C. H. Grandgeat), D. G. Rossetti's translation of the *Vita Nuova*, nine short lyrics, extracts from the Latin prose works, and a general introduction by Paolo Milano. For those who have no knowledge of Italian it is undoubtedly convenient to have one of the best "terza rima" versions of the *Commedia* and a translation of the *Vita Nuova* in a single well-produced volume; but the mere addition of a three-page bibliographical note by Sergio Pacifici, dated 1968, does not compensate for the absence of any editorial guidance on what the critical work of the past twenty-five years has established as proper and helpful for a reader to know in 1972.

SEYMOUR-SMITH, MARTIN. *Longer Elizabethan Poems*. 261pp. £1.90 (paperback, 90p).

VENABLES, FRANCIS. *The Early Augustines*. 188pp. £1.75 (paperback, 80p).

Heinemann.

Presumably, the "Poetry Bookshelf" series is intended mainly for the sixth-

form. Even the volumes devoted to individual poets—the *G. M. Hopkins*, for example—would be quite inadequate for any but the laziest and most third-bound undergraduate.

Granted this limitation, Martin Seymour-Smith's anthology of longer Elizabethan poems is one of the best of its kind. The readable and conscientious introduction asks precisely the sort of questions that an intelligent sixth-former will find most stimulating. The editor gives short backgrounds to the poems and yeomanlike biographies of their authors. Furthermore, as Mr Seymour-Smith himself roundly announces: "My commentary provides as much help as is necessary and desirable"; however, when he glosses "ibelt" as "although", and "darksome" as "dark", one might justifiably feel that he should apply himself to more pressing obscurities.

After the polished garbally of Mr Seymour-Smith's Elizabethans, it is a disappointment that Francis Venables has not done a better job with his potentially more interesting material, the early Augustines. Perhaps the trouble is that Mr Venables has to steer between the Restoration and "Leta Augustina" volumes of the same series, and round the ones devoted to Dryden and Pope. His introduction is too studiously allusive to purvey much in the way of information, too urbane to communicate any response to the poems and too short to give an idea of their context. As a result, the selection gives a somewhat fragmentary impression of vigorous individual talent, without pointing to any general issues or asking any larger questions. There are plenty of useful notes at the back, however, and doubtless the book will squeeze by as an "excellent introduction" to the poetry of the period, if as nothing else.

Local History

AVELING, J. C. H. *Catholic Recusancy in the City of York*. 431pp. Catholic Record Society. Distributed by William Dawson & Sons, Folkestone. £4.

An examination in detail of recusancy in York during the centuries of persecution under which Catholics lived, their numbers, social status and occupations. The history is carried down from the accession of Elizabeth I to the year 1791. Appendixes which take up the latter half of the book contain extracts from the York court records and other sources.

SULLIVAN, W. R. *Blyth in the Eighteenth Century*. 95pp plus unnumbered plates. Newcastle upon Tyne: Oriel Press. £2.50 (paperback, £1.50).

Various documents are brought together, followed by about a score of facsimiles, to reflect the life of this Northumbrian port during Hanoverian times. The main source is the collection of Ridley Papers in the Northumbrian Record Office. Besides its continuing and shipbuilding, Blyth had other industries; including brewing and the manufacture of salt ropes and brooks. A brief account of each is included in the introduction to the documents.

Natural History

MUUS, BERT J. *Freshwater Fish in Britain and Europe*. Edited by Alwyn Wheeler. 222pp. Collins, £2.25.

This comprehensive guide to freshwater fishes is not only for the fisherman; but is also a scientific study of fish-life, and the central section describes no fewer than 130 species and races of fish. Beautifully illustrated in colour by Preben Duhstorp, the plates were printed in Denmark.

Photography

Man and Machine. Photographs by Henri Cartier-Bresson. 110pp. Thames and Hudson. £5.50.

This collection of black-and-white photographs by the world's most distinguished photographer was originally commissioned by the IBM World Trade Corporation and its theme is "man's continuing dialogue with machines". The excellent design of the book and the text are by Bruce Mackenzie and Robert Delpre. Here are infants on a modern merry-go-round, a man making a spaceraft, three smiling Swiss nuns hawking with a motor, a Californian boy framed by a confusion of cockpit wires, some French geese near an abandoned windmill, two small girls with a Las Vegas fruit-machine, a pretty French automobile worker, a Greek family on a pushbike, a baby in a Canadian motor-car cemetery, a patient under a kidney machine, women under hairdriers in a Paris beauty salon, an Iranian mother and child, a gull on an ancient bullock plough, and so on. The volume contains many powerful photographs but the master's old magic is not evident everywhere; some shots are idiosyncratically pedestrian and not even well ordered. Perhaps no artist can do his best under the equivocal pressures of mercantile patronage.

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